

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is submitted pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116, which provides that amendments canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action may be entered after a final rejection. The rejected claims have been cancelled to expedite issuance of the allowed subject matter. Cancellation of the rejected claims is made without prejudice to continuing prosecution. Entry of the amendments submitted herein pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 and timely allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

This Amendment resolves all outstanding rejections. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is next in order and is respectfully requested.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 CFR §1.18, the commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the pendency of this application including fees due under 37 CFR §1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3).

If the Examiner has any further questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone so that allowance of the present application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted

Dated: December 23, 2003
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